



CONSERVATION RESERVE ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM

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The new Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) is now up and running, and the Commission has hired Mark Clark as the statewide CREP coordinator. Mark's phone number at the Commission office is (360) 407-6531; his e-mail address is: macl461@ecy.wa.gov. Mark has been working with grants staff to get a portion of the marketing/technical assistance money out the door to districts quickly.

The CREP program in Washington State focuses on establishing riparian forest buffers along waterways designated as critical and depressed in the Salmon and Steelhead Stock Inventory (SASSI).

The initial allocation of CREP marketing, technical assistance, and cost-sharing grant dollars to districts is based solely on established SASSI stream miles. In the future, districts will have an opportunity to revise their SASSI streams miles using a process being developed by Mark Clark and others. If additional CREP-eligible areas are approved under this process, districts may cost-share with landowners in these areas under their current CREP grants.

CREP training scheduled

Training workshops for the CREP program have been scheduled. These workshops are designed for conservation district supervisors, staff, NRCS, and FSA. Workshop locations and dates are shown below:

<u>Location</u>	<u>Dates</u>
Mount Vernon	Feb. 16-17, 1999
Olympia	Feb. 18-19, 1999
Ellensburg	Feb. 22-23, 1999
Tri-Cities	Feb. 24-25, 1999

Workshops will be conducted on the first day from 10:00 a.m.-4:30 p.m. and on the second day from 8:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.

Have you returned your CREP grant application?

On January 15, 1999 the grants staff mailed out one-page CREP grant applications to all conservation districts with SASSI critical or depressed stream miles within their jurisdictions.

As soon as you complete this application, sign it, and return it to us, we can prepare your CREP grant contract. Please note that you can request an initial payment of \$5,000 to jump-start your local program.

The total amount awarded to your district will include both marketing/technical assistance and cost-share dollars, and will be based on the percentage of SASSI miles in your district as compared to the total .

CREP marketing help is on the way!

The Commission is on a fast-track to contract with a marketing and public relations specialist for the CREP program. A request for proposals will be made available on February 3, 1999 and we anticipate awarding a personal services contract for this work to the successful bidder by February 26.

The contractor will prepare a short and long-term strategic plan for marketing, and also produce brochures, presentation materials, and other marketing and public relations tools for use by districts and partner groups.

We will let you know when the contractor begins work, and when you can expect some material help in marketing the CREP program.

IN OTHER NEWS ...

State Revolving Fund (SRF) low-interest dairy waste loans are still available

To date, six low-interest loans have been made under the Commission's SRF Loan program for dairies, totalling \$199,953. Keep this program in mind when working with your dairy operators – it can be used to make up the required landowner match under state cost-sharing policy.

What the @!#! is a WALPA?

The 12th annual conference of the Washington Lake Protection Association (WALPA) will be held April 8-10, 1999 in Spokane.

Much of the conference will be devoted to the control of macrophytes, including invasive species such as Eurasian watermilfoil. One session, on April 9, is titled "Conservation District Watershed / Water Quality Control Projects in Eastern WA."

For more information, call 1-800-607-5498 and leave a message. Or, you can e-mail Dave Lamb, who will chair the session on district watershed projects, at rmilamb@ior.com.

People For Salmon update

All the local coordinators for this \$1 million volunteer salmon habitat restoration project are now on board. They are responsible for carrying out this project at the grassroots level. The names and phone numbers of the volunteer coordinators and their organizations are shown below. Feel free to contact them and learn how your district might partner with these folks.

<i>Volunteer Coordinators</i>	<i>Phone</i>
Region 1 – Darrell Gray (Nooksack Salmon Enhancement Association)	(360) 715-0283
Region 2 – Rebecca Benjamin (Skagit Fisheries Enhancement Group)	(360) 336-0172
Region 3 – Dana Graupmann (Stilly-Snohomish Fisheries Task Force)	(425) 252-6686
Region 4 – Troy Fields (Mid-Sound Regional Fisheries Enhancement Group)	(206) 652-9725
Region 5 – Todd Alsbury (South Puget Sound Salmon Enhancement Group)	(253) 984-0431
Region 6 – Neil Warner / Sue Hayward (Hood Canal Salmon Enhancement Group)	(360) 275-0373 1-800-527-9436 (360) 275-3575
Region 7 – Greg Schwartz (North Olympic Salmon Coalition)	(360) 379-0479 (360) 379-8051
Region 8 – Carl Chastain (Pacific Salmon Coalition)	(360) 374-5501 (360) 374-2292
Region 9 – Frank Smith (Chehalis Basin Fisheries Task Force)	(360) 736-6609 (360) 533-1766
Willapa Alliance – Tom Kantz	(360) 875-5195
Wahkiakum Conservation District – Chris Reinhardt	(360) 425-5270 (360) 795-8240
Tri-State Steelheaders – John Geidl (South Central & Southeastern WA)	(509) 529-4184
North Central RC&D – David Demyan (North Central & Northeastern WA)	(509) 486-1006 (509) 682-8284

Three regional fisheries enhancement groups are not participating in this program: Region 10 (Willapa Regional Fisheries Enhancement Group); Region 11 (Lower Columbia River Fisheries Enhancement Group); and Region 12 (Eastern Washington Fisheries Enhancement Group).

If you have general questions about the People For Salmon project, call Sally Hicks, project director, at (360) 923-9281.

If you have questions about volunteer recruiting or training, call David Burger, the volunteer manager, at (206) 524-5114.

Want more moo money?

The Commission has \$11,000 in unused dairy waste cost-share grant dollars. If your district has need of some additional cost-share money for dairy waste BMPs, let us know.

As before, this money is available on a first-come, first-served basis. So don't delay!

Want your grant dollars electronically deposited?

The state Treasurer is able to electronically transfer grant funds directly to your district's bank account instead of sending a check through the mail (you do receive notification of the transfer in the mail, however).

If you want to set up electronic fund transfer (EFT) for your district, give Debbie Schenck a call at (360) 407-6212.

Give it up for Jenny Baker!

Jenny Baker, a habitat restoration technician with the Snohomish CD, recently received an award from the US Fish & Wildlife Service for her leadership in three major habitat restoration projects. This work restored 13 acres of wetlands, enhanced 585 feet of salmon spawning stream, and fenced off 1,670 feet of stream.

Good work, Jenny!

Upcoming due dates

The following items are due in the Commission office on the dates shown.

<i>Due Date</i>	<i>Item</i>
March 1, 1999	1998 Annual Report of Financial Transactions (due at the same time in the State Auditor's Office)
April 1, 1999	1999-2000 district annual plans
May 1, 1999	Results of district internal audits
June 1, 1999	Basic Funding applications (copy the application forms from your Procedure Manual, or call Debbie Schenck)
June 1, 1999	Implementation Grant applications (application forms for both Implementation and Competitive grants will be mailed to each district during the week of March 22, 1999)
December 1, 1999 (WACD Annual Meeting)	Competitive Grant applications